

Mildred Larsen visited Dr. R. Raymond Green's office on February 8, 1982 and related the following story about activities at her father's (Nels J. Johnson) Mill on Provo River beyond the river bridge going into Midway from Heber City. *Nels ran the mill from 1901 to 195*

Mildred's father had become acquainted with several Drs. in Salt Lake City because of a problem he and his wife Mary Ann Orgill Johnson had with their son, Ronald Mark Johnson. These good people had taken their son Ronald to a very fine Orthopedic Surgeon named Dr. Samuel Clinton Baldwin. Dr. Baldwin treated Ronald who was then 4 or 5 years for his club feet.

As people from all over the County came to the mill as customers for flour, grain to be ground etc. Nels learned that there were others that needed Dr. Baldwin's help. So a visit was arranged and the Dr. examined these patients at the Johnson home if other help was needed Dr. Baldwin could refer them to different Doctors. There was no weekly or monthly visits, once scheduled at anytime folks told of their need and Nels tried to help them; since he had one of the earliest cars in the valley, he many times provided transportation. Some of these visit ended in a fishing trip to Strawberry River Country, where the trout lay on the ripples at spawning time and could be picked up with the bare hands. Thomas J. Orgill would take a wagon load of supplies and make camp at a likely place. Eph Nelson went along to catch enough fish for supper. The Dr.'s followed later in a white top, even Gov. Bamberger went along on one trip. Dr. Baldwin said at one time "if he had to be out in the wilds and could only be accompanied by one other man that man would be Tom Orgill" also he startled this companions by getting up early and Dr. Baldwin bathing in the icy waters of Strawberry River.

Dr. Bert Dannenberg married a girl from Heber City, Lacy Turner, and had his practice in the valley. Later Dr. T.A. Dannenberg, a brother came from Kamas and a hospital was started.

A few people who were helped with these doctors were:

1. Lucille Watkins with blood poisoning in her arm.
2. Dora Hair who had been bed fast for years.
3. Delwin Pyper (Ray's son) with club feet.
4. June Bonner who could not walk.

They were taken to Salt Lake City for hospital care.

13 years and as a teacher of the Gospel of Jesus Christ since he was 18 years of age. He taught the MIA gospel adult class and priesthood quorums both in the ward and the stake; served on the Sunday School and MIA Stake Boards and is now teaching the Wasatch Stake Adult Aaronic Priesthood School, through five complete graduating classes.

He was chosen by the Wasatch Stake young people as the Honorary Master M-Man in 1955. At present he is teaching the M-Men and Gleaner Class in connection with his wife in the Midway First Ward. He has spoken to literally hundreds of funerals during his lifetime, beginning immediately upon his return from a mission and continuing during his lifetime.

His family honor and revere him. His two sons served in the armed forces, and a daughter and a son served missions for the Church. At present he is a well-known farmer and dairyman; and as a hobby he does sound recording and record making; active in many pursuits and enjoying his seven grandchildren at his home in Midway.

#### NELS JOSEPH JOHNSON AND MARY ANN ORGILL JOHNSON



Nels Joseph Johnson was born June 26, 1870 in Peoa, Summit County, a son of Ola and Marna Walters Johnson. He married Elizabeth Moore at Coalville, July 18, 1896. After her death on June 8, 1898, he married Mary Ann Orgill March 22, 1900. Nels died May 22, 1950.

Mary Ann Orgill was born in Mt. Pleasant, Sanpete County, January 9, 1877, a daughter of Mark and Rachel Isabelle Smith Orgill. She died March 26, 1952.

Nels was the oldest son of Ola and Marna Walters Johnson. His family moved to Heber City when Nels was four years old. He attended public schools in Heber. His early years were spent in helping farmers

in the hay fields. When he reached young manhood he obtained his first job with Thackers Sawmill at Strawberry. He worked until he became the engineer at the mill.

In the winter months he obtained a job in Hatch's Flour Mill and learned the milling business. When the plane sifter system was installed in the Heber Mill by the Barnard and Leighs Company, he was the first miller to learn to run this system. Then this same company installed the system in mills in Oakley, Kamas and Wanship. They hired Mr. Johnson to go to these mills and instruct other millers in the plane sifter system. It was during this time that he met and married Elizabeth Moore. They lived at Oakley, where he supervised these three mills. It was here that the couple's two children were born, Merne and Nels. Elizabeth died shortly after the birth of her son, and the little Nels passed away five months later. After the death of his wife and child he came back to Wasatch county to work in Hatch's Mill again.

Millers at Kamas became unhappy with their work and wanted to quit their jobs so Nels and his brother A. O. Johnson purchased the mill in Kamas and this became Johnson's Brothers Milling Company.

In 1900 Nels married Mary Ann Orgill. They lived at Hatch's mill until after the birth of their first son. In 1902 Nels and his brother purchased the Midway Mill from Mark Jeffs. This partnership continued some fifteen years. Then a coin was flipped to see who would take possession of the Midway Mill. The coin fell in Nels' favor. He paid A. O. the sum of \$5,000 and gave him his share in the Kamas mill because the Midway Mill was considered a better location.

Midway Roller Mills drew on a large territory of Uintah Basin and Wasatch County, and friends that Nels had made in Summit County still patronized his business and did so until he died. Indians came from the reservation, and the government paid a percentage of the cost of grinding besides the toll the Indians paid so they would not be left waiting to have their grain ground. They came by the hundreds and camped overnight in the empty ponds and flat country south of the mill.

During World War I the mill ran day and night to produce flour for the government. This flour was packed in burlap sacks that weighed 140 lbs, when filled. The flour





Plans Ahead on Descendants of:

Gottlieb

KOHLER & Elizabeth MUELLER <sup>Healer</sup>

## Healer

| #  | What To Do                                       | Date Done |
|----|--|-----------|
| 1. | ✓ Listen to Alber & Kohler tell abt Dad          | 1962      |
| 2. | ✓ Listen to Conrad Gertsch " " Gottlieb          | 1962      |
| 3. | Talk to Ray Kohler & ask for History *FGS        |           |
| 4. | ✓ Get Hist from "How Beautiful" appendts p 756-7 | 9-1-81    |
| 5. | ✓ " " " " " " "pp 549                            | 9-1-81    |
| 6. | ✓ FGS completed - ?                              | 8-13-74   |
| 7. | ✓ Pedigree sheet completed                       | 8-13-74   |

## GOTTLIEB AND ELIZABETH MUELLER KOHLER

Gottlieb Kohler, son of Melchior Kohler and Barbara Riedwyl was born December 4, 1845 at Meiringen, Switzerland. Elizabeth Mueller, daughter of Samuel Edward Mueller and Anna Dietrich, was born September 28, 1847, at Koeniz, Switzerland. Died 1929 in Midway.

As a young man, Gottlieb studied medicine until his father met with an accident which left him deaf and dumb. Gottlieb mastered the deaf and dumb language and became a shoemaker, working with his father. It was while in the shoe business,

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Gottlieb met and married Elizabeth, a young tailoress, on November 17, 1869 in the Protestant Church at Thun, Switzerland, of which they were both members.

Their first home was with Gottlieb's father, his mother having died. Later while living with Elizabeth's aunt, two LDS missionaries found Elizabeth and Gottlieb. After a great deal of investigation, Gottlieb and the three oldest children were baptized on October 7, 1882 by John Hafen. Because of severe ridicule of friends and family, Elizabeth was not easily convinced regarding Mormonism. However, the following year, on April 7, 1883, she was baptized by John Stucki.

Soon the spirit of gathering to Zion entered their hearts. Together, the family worked hard making and selling shoes to obtain money for their trip to America. In the spring of 1884 the oldest boy Emil, then 12, and Bertha of eight years, were sent to Utah with the Elders, to be followed in two years by the rest of the family.

They arrived in Salt Lake City on June 7, 1886 where after two years of separation, they were reunited with Emil and Bertha. The first night was spent in the old Tithing Office, sleeping on the floor. John Buhler met them the following morning and took them to Midway to make their home.

Conditions were not always good in their new home. Many hardships and trials came to test their faith. Four more children were added to the family, making 13 children for the parents to rear to adulthood.

Gottlieb was very active in organizing the Swiss people who built their own hall and met regularly where the gospel could be taught in their native tongue. He was a good musician, played the accordion and conducted the singing. Under an appointment of the Town Board, Gottlieb became the town doctor and dentist and for years

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unselfishly administered to the sick in Midway.

In order to make a living for his family, Gottlieb worked as a rock mason and later did shoemaking and farming. Elizabeth assisted with gardening and raising chickens.

The desire of their hearts was achieved on November 29, 1888, when Elizabeth and Gottlieb traveled by horse and wagon to the Logan Temple, and were sealed for time and eternity. On April 29, 1903 the children were sealed to their parents in the Salt Lake Temple. The family has continued to be active in genealogy work.

Gottlieb returned to his native land to fill a mission as did three of the sons: Emil, August and Fred. Emil was the first son to go on a mission, leaving when only 19 years of age. Six years later he returned to Switzerland for a second mission and converted Elizabeth's mother, Anna Mueller, the only member of either family to ever join the Church. She came to Midway where she lived until her death at 82 years of age. She is buried in the Midway Cemetery.

Albert and Ida filled missions also as did 20 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. The Kohler family has, through the years been active in Church and civic affairs, following the traditions of their noble parents.

Children of Gottlieb and Elizabeth Kohler included:

- Emil G., married Elizabeth Kupfer;
- Mrs. Ernest Probst (Emma)
- Ernest, married Mary Bigler;
- Mrs. Joseph Chanty (Bertha);
- August, married Eliza Wintch;
- Frederick, married Lucetta Clegg;
- Mrs. Hugh Coleman (Alice)
- Mrs. Orson Mathews (Leah)
- Mrs. Jonas Halverson (Clara)
- Alexander, died in youth;
- Mrs. George Jones (Louise);
- Albert, married Elsie Richards;
- Mrs. Edwin Circuit (Ida).